

and missed rollcall votes 651 and 654. If present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 651 and 654.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 22, 2010*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 659 on, H.R. 5116 on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 660 on H.R. 2142, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 661 on H.R. 2751, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 662 on H.R. 3082, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to House Amendment to Senate Amendment, Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 663 on H.R. 6547, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

#### IN HONOR OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 22, 2010*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I thank you for your service to our country, for your sacrifice and unyielding dedication.

Because of your leadership, Democrats have much to be proud of during our work in the 110th and 111th Congress.

As Speaker, you have made the United States a better country. Women have more rights in the workforce, children are safer, our military is stronger and our economy was saved from near complete collapse.

Without you at the helm, healthcare for all would only be a dream. Because of your labor, it will be a reality.

As the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House, you have left an indelible mark on our history. Your positive, supportive and empowering leadership will forever remind us of what it is to be an American.

Your strength of leadership will continue to serve the American people well as we protect the victories we have secured, and renew our efforts to move America forward.

Speaker, I remember the day of your swearing-in. All the children surrounding you as you pounded the gavel leading us on a new direction. You have made them proud. You have made us all proud.

Thank you, Speaker PELOSI. Thank you.

#### RECOGNIZING MS. JENNIFER CRASE

### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 22, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jennifer Crase, a mathematics teacher at South Oldham Middle School in the Fourth Congressional District of Kentucky.

Ms. Crase has been an educator for more than thirteen years and has taught eighth grade mathematics in Crestwood, Kentucky for 6 years.

In June 2010, Ms. Crase was nominated by President Barack Obama as a Presidential Awardee for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

In addition to being an outstanding teacher, she has worked at the State level to develop a standards-based report card for all Kentucky middle schools. Ms. Crase serves as a team leader, mentor, presenter and mathematics lead teacher for her school.

Ms. Crase is a strong mentor and a reliable friend to her colleagues. She encourages collaboration and sets high goals for all students.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishments of this exceptional Kentuckian, it is my hope that others are encouraged by her hard work and determination.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Jennifer Crase for her time and devotion in helping the youth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

#### HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHAIRMAN DAVID OBEY OF WISCONSIN

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 22, 2010*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, with the conclusion of the 111th Congress, a career of extraordinary public service in the House of Representatives comes to an end. My colleague, friend and mentor—Chairman DAVID OBEY—is concluding his career in Congress representing the families of northwestern Wisconsin that began in 1969. For twenty terms, DAVID OBEY has been a liberal champion and a fierce defender of workers and their families. He has been a passionate and effective legislator for right of all Americans to access quality health care and education. And, in the realm of U.S. foreign policy, Chairman OBEY has a lifetime record of always striving to ad-

vance human dignity, peace, and the highest ideals of the American people around the world.

It has been my privilege to serve in this House with Rep. OBEY for the past ten years—one-quarter of his congressional career. For the past four years, I had the honor of serving on the House Appropriations Committee, calling the gentleman from Wisconsin “Mr. Chairman.” I have watched DAVID OBEY work—work hard, tirelessly, and with tremendous determination and intellect—to advance an agenda that makes the lives of regular Americans the highest priority of the federal government. Chairman OBEY always fought for the less fortunate, the vulnerable, those struggling for an opportunity to succeed, and to ensure those who have made this country great with their toil and sacrifice in the factory, the farm field, or on the battlefield. He fought so they too could live and retire with security, respect, and dignity.

It is often said that Mr. OBEY was tough and rough on the outside, but I always found him to be a kind, warm soul who knew the importance and magnitude of his responsibilities and carried them out with the humble expertise of a legislative master. “I started as a shy boy from a troubled family of modest means,” Rep. OBEY once said. Well, that shy boy has made a lifetime of contributions to our country that will be judged by history as both profound and far reaching. People who will never know DAVID OBEY are living better lives with more opportunities because of him. The State of Wisconsin and the United States are better places because of his years of service in the U.S. House.

As a Wisconsin Progressive in the tradition of Robert LaFollette, Rep. OBEY has never shied away from calling out injustice or just plain dumb policymaking. In his book, “Raising Hell for Justice,” he reminds citizens and policymakers that “federal budgets that pay for tax cuts for millionaires with budget cuts in education, Medicaid, child care, and health care are not just unfair; they are immoral.”

This quote was again put to the test only last week as Chairman OBEY voted against extending massive tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. I was proud to join Chairman OBEY in opposing this tax cut for the wealthy that only continues the disturbing pattern of income re-distribution away from working families and towards a class of economic elites.

As the longest serving Member of Congress in Wisconsin history, I know DAVID spent far too much time away from his wife, Joan, and their family. I wish DAVID, Joan, and their sons’ families many happy days together in the coming years.

In conclusion, let me simply say—Mr. Chairman, you have served our country so very well. It is personally difficult to see you leave, but your lifetime of service will live on in the lives of millions of Americans whose lives you have helped to improve. As a colleague and a friend, you have made me a better legislator and for that I am grateful to you.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 22, 2010*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House